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**Environment Department Announces Class Schedule for Solid Waste Training**

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is announcing its 2005 schedule of solid waste certification classes. These classes in composting, landfill, recycling, and transfer station facility operations are an effort to help local governments and private businesses meet the solid waste management needs of communities and comply with state regulations.

The classes, designed primarily for individuals operating various solid waste management facilities, are also open to the general public. Attendees may become state-certified operators by successfully completing the class and meeting other experience requirements.

The cost of the classes range from \$125 to \$200 and offer participants the opportunity to acquire the best and most current information on solid waste management practices. Course instructors include Environment Department staff, private sector owners and operators, as well as other state agency staff. Each of the 3- and 5-day courses conclude with an examination. Attendees wanting certification must score at least 70 percent on the examination and meet certain experience requirements.

The 2005 schedule includes the following classes:

Compost Facility	April 26 - 28 October 18 - 20	<b>Carlsbad</b> <b>Albuquerque</b>
Landfill	March 7 - 11 July 25 - 29	<b>Santa Fe</b> <b>T or C</b>
Recycling Facility	June 28 - 30 November 15 - 17	<b>Roswell</b> <b>Albuquerque</b>
Transfer Station	June 7 - 9 September 13 - 15	<b>Santa Fe</b> <b>Los Lunas</b>

Classes are taught in cooperation with two non-profit solid waste organizations. The New Mexico Recycling Coalition (NMRC) sponsors the compost and recycling classes. Registration forms and specific class details are available by contacting English Bird, Executive Director, NMRC at (505) 983-4470 or through the NMRC web site at [www.nmrecycle.org](http://www.nmrecycle.org).

The Roadrunner Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) sponsors the landfill and transfer station classes. Registration forms and specific class details are available by contacting JoAnne Weaver, Executive Secretary, SWANA Roadrunner chapter, at (505) 872-0164 or through the Roadrunner chapter web site at [www.nmswana.com](http://www.nmswana.com).

For more information contact Charles R. Ferguson, in the NMED Solid Waste Bureau, Outreach and Technical Assistance Program, at (505) 762-3728 or Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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